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The University of
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NEWS RELEASE

April 7, 1998

Contact: Gerry Brenner, Phi Kappa Phi, (406) 243-4462.

QUALITY VS. QUANTITY: DEBATERS FOCUS ON RISING ENROLLMENTS AT UM MISSOULA--

Continued rising enrollments and their effect on academic quality at The University of Montana-Missoula will be the focus of the fifth in a series of debates organized by UM's Phi Kappa Phi and Golden Key honor societies.

The debate will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, April 13, in Liberal Arts Building Room 104. The public is invited.

Continuing in the series' theme of academic topics, the debate is titled "Are the Engines Driving UM's Enrollment Up Driving Educational Quality Down?" Debaters will consider "engines" such as legislative funding, a productivity model that values quantity over quality, and competition for the position of largest institution of higher education, according to English Professor Gerry Brenner.

The debate also will explore issues of lower recruitment standards, inflated grading practices and "whether enrollment policies and practices are in the best interests of the university as an institution of excellence," Brenner said.

Panelists will include Stewart Justman, professor of English; Audrey Peterson, director of Student Advising and professor of curriculum and instruction; Frank Matule, director of Admissions and New Student Services; and Courtney Wilder, a senior in philosophy. Brenner will moderate.

The lecture, part of an informal debate series, is the last of the academic year. For more information, call Brenner, Phi Kappa Phi treasurer, at 243-4462.

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